

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

16. (New) An optical information recording medium, comprising a first information layer, an intermediate layer, and a second information layer, in that order, on a substrate, with which the recording and reproduction of information are performed by causing laser light to be incident from the second information layer side,

wherein both of the information layers have a recording layer composed of a material containing Te, O, and M (where M is one or more elements selected from among Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, In, Sn, Sb, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, and Bi), and

$$M_2 > M_1$$

is satisfied, where  $M_1$  is the compositional ratio of the material M in the first information layer, and  $M_2$  is the compositional ratio of the material M in the second information layer.

17. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 16, wherein the recording layers each contain the material M in an amount of at least 1 atom% and no more than 30 atom%.

18. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 16, wherein the thickness of the recording layers is at least 1 nm and no more than 50 nm.

19. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 16, wherein at least one of the first and second information layers has a protective layer on the substrate side of the recording layer and/or the opposite side from the substrate side.

20. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 19, wherein the material of the protective layer is ZnS, at least one oxide selected from among Si-O, Al-O, Ti-O, Ta-O, Zr-O, and Cr-O, at least one nitride selected from

among Ge-N, Cr-N, Si-N, Al-N, Nb-N, Mo-N, Ti-N, and Zr-N, at least one carbide selected from among Ge-C, Cr-C, Si-C, Al-C, Ti-C, Zr-C, and Ta-C, at least one fluoride selected from among Si-F, Al-F, Mg-F, Ca-F, and La-F, or a combination of these (such as ZnS-SiO<sub>2</sub>).

21. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 19, wherein the thickness of the protective layer is at least 3 nm and no more than 50 nm.

22. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 16, wherein at least one of the first and second information layers has a reflective layer on the substrate side of the recording layer.

23. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 22, wherein the reflective layer is composed of a material whose main component is at least one element selected from among Ag, Al, Au, Si, Cu, Ni, Cr, and Ti.

24. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 22, wherein the thickness of the reflective layer is at least 3 nm and no more than 200 nm.

25. (New) An optical information recording medium, comprising a first information layer, a second information layer, ..., and an n-th information layer (where n is an integer of 3 or greater), in that order, on a substrate, with each of these separated by an intermediate layer, with which the recording and reproduction of information are performed by causing laser light to be incident from the n-th information layer side,

wherein all of the information layers have a recording layer composed of a material containing Te, O, and M (where M is one or more elements selected from among Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, In, Sn, Sb, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, and Bi), and

$$M_n \geq \dots \geq M_2 \geq M_1 \text{ and } M_1 \neq M_n$$

are satisfied, where M<sub>1</sub> is the compositional ratio of the material M in the first information layer, M<sub>2</sub> is the compositional ratio of the material M in the second

information layer, ..., and  $M_n$  is the compositional ratio of the material M in the n-th information layer.

26. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein the recording layers each contain the material M in an amount of at least 1 atom% and no more than 30 atom%.

27. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein the thickness of the recording layers is at least 1 nm and no more than 50 nm.

28. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein at least one of the first to n-th information layers has a protective layer on the substrate side of the recording layer and/or the opposite side from the substrate side, and the protective layer is composed of a material with a refractive index n of at least 1.5.

29. (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein at least one of the first to n-th information layers has a reflective layer on the substrate side of the recording layer, and the reflective layer is composed of a material whose refractive index n is no more than 2 and whose extinction coefficient k is at least 2.

30. (New) A method for manufacturing the optical information recording medium according to Claim 16,

comprising annealing in which the temperature is held at 60°C or higher for at least 5 minutes after at least the recording layers have been formed.

31. (New) A method for manufacturing the optical information recording medium according to Claim 25,

comprising annealing in which the temperature is held at 60°C or higher for at least 5 minutes after at least the recording layers have been formed.